



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 29, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 31, 2005, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Average Week for Field Work:** Cool weather continued throughout much of the week, but scattered showers brought some relief to the dry conditions. Moisture levels rose slightly with the rain, but more is needed to keep crops growing. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included planting soybeans, cutting hay and haylage, spraying herbicides, spreading manure and fertilizer, putting livestock out to pasture, preparing hay equipment, and finishing corn planting.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 22, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
7	32	57	4

**Crops:** This year's oat crop continued well ahead of pace as ninety-seven percent is now emerged. This is well ahead of the 5-year average of 87 percent. Oat conditions continue to be good as seventy-one percent of what has emerged rated as either good or excellent. Barley continues to head at 89 percent. This is still behind last year's average. Sixteen percent of barley has turned yellow now, which is also behind last year's average as well as the 5-year average. Corn is 93 percent planted, well above the 5-year average. Corn conditions remain steady with 62 percent of this year's crop rated as good or excellent. The soybean crop continues to be planted with seventy-seven percent completed, 30 percentage points above the 5-year average. Ninety-four percent of potatoes are now planted. This is well above the pace of last year's potato crop. Thirty percent of the tobacco crop has been transplanted which is well behind last year's average. Sixty-eight percent of winter wheat is now headed, but still remains 19 percentage points behind last year's average. Forty-five percent of the alfalfa has been cut, which is slightly ahead of the previous year and 5-year averages. Timothy clover cutting continues at a steady pace with 19 percent cut now. Sixty percent of this year's alfalfa stand is rated as good or excellent. Likewise, 66 percent of the timothy clover stand is rated as either good or excellent. The quality of hay made this week was 5 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 32 percent excellent.

This year's apple crop continues to look good as 98 percent of the crop is rated as good or excellent. Also, peaches look good with 95 percent of the crop being rated as either good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions were rated as 1 percent very poor, 8

percent poor, 42 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. This is relatively unchanged from the previous week.

**U.S. As of May 22, 2005:** Highlights: Above-normal temperatures prevailed in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, encouraging winter wheat development and summer crop emergence. However, the hot weather, combined with dry conditions in the central and southern parts of the region, continued to worsen winter wheat condition. Meanwhile, in the Dakotas, light to moderate precipitation improved soil moisture conditions. Moderate rainfall in the Southeast was not enough to hamper cotton and peanut planting. Persistent dryness in the Mississippi Delta forced many growers to irrigate. In the Corn Belt, dry conditions early in the week were favorable for planting, with beneficial showers prevailing later in the week. Rainfall in the Pacific Northwest hindered planting but continued to improve soil moisture levels. Corn: Growers had planted 95 percent of their acreage, the same as last year but 7 percentage points ahead of normal. Emergence advanced to 66 percent complete, 13 points behind last year but the same as the 5-year average. Planting was nearly complete across the central Corn Belt and was ahead of the normal pace in all States, except Colorado, Minnesota, and Texas. The crop emerged rapidly, advancing 25 points nationwide. Soybeans: Sixty-five percent of the acreage had been planted, the same as last year but 9 points ahead of normal. Emergence, at 27 percent complete, was 11 points behind last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Heading was 71 percent complete, compared with 78 percent last year and 73 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was well ahead of normal in the Pacific Northwest but trailed behind the normal pace elsewhere. Small Grains: Spring wheat planting was 94 percent complete, 1 point ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of normal. Emergence, at 75 percent complete, was 1 point behind last year but 12 points ahead of the 5-year average. Barley producers had planted 90 percent of their acreage, compared with 92 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average. Sixty-eight percent of the crop had emerged, 6 points behind last year but 7 points ahead of normal. Emergence progressed steadily in most areas, advancing 20 points nationwide. Emergence of the oat crop advanced to 88 percent complete, the same as last year but 5 points ahead of normal. The most rapid progress was in the Ohio Valley, where one-fourth of Pennsylvania's crop and over one-fifth of Ohio's crop emerged during the week.

# Weather Data For Week Ending May 29, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 29, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	73	40	56	-5	0.46	5	5.57	-0.85	27	205	-43	609
Franklin	75	42	56	-5	0.83	5	6.38	-0.66	27	197	-47	649
Meadville	73	41	56	-3	0.82	5	5.52	-1.31	24	226	16	674
Mercer	75	42	57	-4	0.88	5	7.65	0.78	28	189	-63	619
Springboro	74	37	56	-6	0.74	5	7.65	1.54	28	153	-108	541
Warren	75	42	57	-4	0.70	5	6.87	-0.35	25	193	-39	625
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	71	39	52	-5	0.82	6	4.43	-2.68	28	119	-28	479
Emporium	78	40	55	-3	0.72	4	3.64	-3.88	25	178	7	611
Kane	73	37	52	-4	0.84	4	4.94	-2.50	24	87	-55	437
Laporte	73	39	52	-9	0.76	5	6.94	-0.07	28	146	-106	535
Lock Haven	81	43	57	-5	0.80	4	3.98	-2.58	22	256	-27	739
Port Allegany	73	38	52	-6	0.93	5	3.71	-2.91	23	122	-62	485
Renovo	80	43	57	-5	0.52	4	3.45	-3.11	23	243	-40	725
Ridgway	75	38	54	-4	0.77	4	4.35	-3.17	22	130	-41	537
Stevenson Dam	79	40	56	-2	0.78	4	4.10	-3.42	26	214	43	678
Towanda	78	43	56	-5	0.27	6	5.26	-0.87	22	187	-72	633
Wellsboro	73	35	51	-6	0.90	5	4.55	-0.87	22	135	-15	497
Williamsport	80	42	58	-6	0.88	3	5.88	-0.93	18	319	-28	813
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	77	44	54	-5	0.82	7	7.08	-0.06	24	140	-46	550
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	79	47	57	-6	0.50	5	4.94	-1.42	21	314	8	808
Susquehanna	74	43	54	-4	0.73	7	6.59	-0.76	26	157	-12	584
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	77	42	57	-4	1.27	5	7.15	0.15	25	242	-31	736
New Castle	78	42	58	-4	0.93	5	7.79	1.51	26	266	-1	756
Slippery Rock	77	42	56	-5	1.07	5	7.56	0.98	26	236	-3	740
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	75	43	55	-8	0.27	3	1.30	-5.26	12	253	-69	726
DuBois	74	41	54	-7	1.11	6	4.91	-2.17	31	226	-20	681
Lewistown	82	46	58	-6	0.84	5	4.79	-1.98	23	300	-75	815
Middletown	81	48	61	-4	0.43	3	5.76	-1.46	17	462	31	1,017
Prince Gallitzi	75	37	54	-6	1.22	6	4.69	-3.94	27	152	-66	578
Selinsgrove	80	44	57	-6	0.34	3	5.94	-0.85	18	246	-71	741
State College	78	47	57	-5	0.92	4	3.38	-2.90	20	289	-16	793
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	81	44	58	-7	0.36	4	7.72	0.26	21	338	-32	867
Lehighton	80	46	58	-6	1.59	5	9.73	2.36	23	261	-91	769
Matamoras	79	43	54	-8	0.86	7	7.12	-0.85	26	170	-124	619
Tobyhanna	79	45	56	-1	0.82	7	7.35	-0.98	26	231	88	727
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	76	45	59	-3	1.07	5	5.54	-1.63	24	414	87	953
Derry	75	42	57	-5	1.51	5	6.92	-0.08	26	265	-17	761
Myersdale	71	37	52	-9	1.32	4	4.94	-3.05	21	120	-153	523
Mount Pleasant	75	41	56	-4	2.44	5	5.81	-2.22	29	250	22	749
Pittsburgh Intl	76	43	58	-5	1.18	5	7.31	0.81	27	367	13	889
Rector	74	43	56	-4	1.22	5	6.26	-1.77	29	243	15	739
Waynesburg	77	41	57	-5	1.45	5	6.05	-1.12	23	262	-42	770
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	79	43	58	-8	0.91	4	6.57	-0.31	20	340	-90	873
Everett	70	39	52	-10	0.47	5	3.81	-2.92	21	135	-169	564
Hanover	80	43	58	-8	0.69	4	6.00	-0.88	20	329	-101	853
Shippensburg	83	47	59	-6	0.33	5	4.21	-2.42	21	352	-92	873
South Mountain	79	47	59	-4	0.44	4	5.86	-0.70	18	333	18	866
York	79	45	59	-7	1.08	4	5.51	-1.55	16	363	-78	886
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	81	47	58	-6	0.27	4	8.35	0.87	20	319	-24	855
Hamburg	83	44	59	-3	0.67	3	7.06	-1.38	18	359	77	889
Hopewell	81	48	58	-8	0.47	4	6.89	-0.75	21	325	-134	863
Lancaster	81	44	60	-5	0.41	5	5.28	-1.76	20	375	2	909
Neshaminy Falls	81	45	57	-7	0.31	3	6.30	-1.91	18	268	-97	779
New Holland	82	46	59	-5	0.22	5	5.59	-1.45	20	374	1	912
Philadelphia	83	49	60	-7	0.16	5	6.59	-0.54	19	466	-10	1,043
Philadelphia NE	83	49	60	-6	0.10	3	5.95	-1.18	16	446	-30	1,012
Reading	83	47	60	-4	0.29	4	6.02	-1.91	18	399	48	939
Valley Forge Na	82	39	57	-9	0.06	3	8.59	0.95	17	279	-180	785
Willow Grove	81	48	59	-6	0.26	4	5.74	-2.47	17	382	17	934

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

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**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - This week was a cold and wet with little growth. We have the moisture but now we need the heat to get things growing.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Field work continued. Some hay is being made but quantity is low. Rainfall for the week in my gauge was .75 inches. Temperatures and top soil moisture remain too low for good seed germination and plant growth.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - Need rain. Have had spotty showers but all crops in this area would benefit from an inch of rain.

**ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA)** - Some passing showers occurred this past week. Cool, dry temperatures have offered producers a chance to finish planting their corn and soybeans. First cutting of hay is being taken off.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The crops need warm temperatures. The cool weather has slowed crop growth. Hay yield is about half compared to last year. Corn is finally germinating. Many farmers are talking about replanting some of their fields.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - Showers this week helped the corn and beans that were planted, however made for a poor week of hay making. Barley is turning, but appears to be very light and short heads this year. Wheat will be short as well. Fruit still looking good. Some varieties of apples are showing poor pollination.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - We saw some fungal evidence on flag leaves on wheat. Hay yields are running in 50% of normal range.

**JUNIATA COUNTY Greg Hostetter (EXT)** - Recent rains have helped more crops emerge. Corn emergence is still very uneven and corn plants do not have good color. Alfalfa fields are more weedy than in past springs. Pastures are still well behind in their growth and production. Starting to see more and more acres needing re-sprayed due to lack of rain to activate pre-emergence herbicides. Also seeing some burn down herbicide failures.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - A cool, cloudy week with little rain until mid week on, only a few tenths all week. Soybeans continue to be planted along with the last of the corn. Other activities include baling rye straw, hauling manure, spraying corn, mowing hay and making haylage/balage. Warm temps and sunshine by the weekend helped corn green up.

**PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT)** - While the quantity of first cutting hay crop was reduced, the quality has been exceptional. The initial forage tests are showing quality results that we seldom achieve in PA harvested haylage.

**POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)** - Hay is growing slow due to frost at night and no moisture. Most corn is planted but growing slow. Pasture is the same as hay.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - Scattered showers throughout the weekend have helped alleviate dry conditions in parts of the county. Growers are getting concerned about the lack of heat and moisture. Making hay, planting beans, weed spraying, and vegetable planting were all part of the tasks being done this past week.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William c. Sheaffer** - From last week until today we had .40 inches of rainfall, not enough to make a difference. The corn that has emerged is at a standstill with very poor color and some evidence of insect damage. The soybeans are finally breaking through, but it is too early to assess the stand. Many farmers are making haylage and reporting that the yield is very poor. The barley is beginning to turn colors, the wheat is in near full head, and the oats are slow growing. The main activities for the week were planting corn and soybeans, spraying herbicides, mowing, and making haylage.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - A very much needed thunderstorm Friday afternoon brought about an inch of rain. Showers all weekend, but very scattered around the county. Hay looks like it doubled in height since the rain. Hopefully start chopping haylage this week as long as weather permits.

**UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler** - Moisture during the past two weeks have greatly helped soybean emergence; however, stands appear to be more uneven than normal. Lack of moisture seems to have reduced height of forage crops. Excellent progress in almost all field work, but warmer temperatures would be welcomed by many growers.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - Rain and sunny weather last weekend has increased the quality of the hay crop throughout the county.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Another excellent week of planting before the much needed rains arrived on Saturday. Most crops are planted with some slight progress being made with hay harvest. Too cool for any quality dry hay to be made yet. Both corn and soybeans need some warmth.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 29, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	93	83	80
Corn, emerged	59	65	63
Barley, heading or headed	89	98	94
Barley, turning yellow	16	42	33
Wheat, heading or headed	68	87	80
Oats, emerged	97	76	87
Soybeans, planted	77	49	47
Soybeans, emerged	30	30	28
Tobacco, transplanted	30	53	34
Potatoes, planted	94	89	86
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	45	43	38
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	19	16	13

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 29, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	3	35	51	11
Wheat	0	3	17	62	18
Oats	0	4	25	62	9
Soybeans	0	7	45	37	11
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	7	32	39	21
Timothy clover stand	3	8	28	45	16
Quality of hay made	0	5	19	44	32
Pasture	1	8	42	36	13
Peaches	0	1	4	55	40
Apples	0	0	2	55	43

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